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## **Building resilience in Tajikistan: Mainstreaming climate risk assessment to support adaptation**

**Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

**Side Event**

**June 5, 2023 (2:00 pm to 4:00 pm)**

**Organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

**Co-convenor(s): Aga Khan Foundation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Tajikistan), Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (Tajikistan), Agency of Hydrometeorology, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (Tajikistan)**

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### **Background information and rationale**

A climate risk vulnerability assessment (CRVA) is a framework to mainstream and scale-up climate-adaptation tailored to prevailing environmental and socio-economic conditions. The approach has identified key climate risks and vulnerabilities of the agriculture, environment, and natural resources (ANR) sector to identify strategic climate-oriented interventions. The climate change assessment indicates that extreme maximum temperatures, heavy precipitation, and increasing drought incidence are the major impacts of climate change in the country. Higher maximum temperatures, early onset of heat and drought, increased duration of temperatures above the global average (5.8°C of warming under high emissions pathway), and drought severity will have wide-reaching and cross sectoral consequences on water resources with cascading impacts on agro-ecosystems, economic development, food security and nutrition. Extreme heat will likely reduce any potential gains from increased crop productivity. Glacial melt shifts in seasonal flood peak patterns, and an increase in heavy precipitation towards springtime will likely trigger the occurrence of climate-related natural hazards (mudflow and flashfloods). They will alter the hydrologic regime that are expected to affect water availability during critical crop growth stages and pasture management. The low adaptive capacity of rural communities due to a lack of economic diversity, poverty and high dependence on agriculture, and land degradation from unsustainable farming practices makes them highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The side event will share insights on the approach to mainstream climate change risk assessment to inform climate-oriented investments predicated on robust evidence on current and future climate risks. It will emphasize the integrated approach to developing climate resilience focused and stakeholder-centric investment projects for the water sector. It will also highlight the process and steps to identify actionable, scalable, and locally relevant interventions through evidence-based and participatory stakeholder engagements.

### **Main questions for discussion**

1. What are the steps to identify investment opportunities which focus on increasing resilience to negative climate change impacts?
2. How is the approach aligned with the government's climate change and development objectives?

3. What are the needed policy support to create an enabling environment for scaling up climate-oriented investments in Tajikistan?
4. What are the potential synergies of the proposed climate change investment projects with existing and ongoing interventions of development organizations and the government?
5. Tajikistan is part of the Amu Dary River Basin. How will those proposed interventions affect transboundary issues in water management?

### Key takeaways

- Climate change impacts are already being felt. Especially the gap between water demand and reliable supply in Aral Sea Basin is increasing due to climate change. We must work ambitiously to address climate adaptation needs at the national and community level to maximize potential gains from climate change interventions and accelerate national determined contributions (NDCs) achievements while taking a broader perspective on how those interventions can impact transboundary resources. Climate change risk assessment can contribute to identifying relevant climate-responsive adaptation investment projects aligned with government priorities and global goals.
- Participants will appreciate the value of climate risk assessment as a strategic approach to identify relevant climate change adaptation projects anchored on climate change risks. This will reaffirm the commitments of the participants to scale up climate risk assessment approach in ongoing plans and investments to enhance resilience in Tajikistan and in the region.
- In ANR sector, the updated NDC (2021) describes Tajikistan’s efforts including reduction of the risks of water-related disasters; improvement of water resources management through the full implementation of basin and integrated water resources management; adoption and implementation of the National Water Strategy of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030, NDS till 2030, Medium-Term Development Programme 2021-2025, and modernization of irrigation and drainage systems. The climate risk assessment approach supports these efforts.

### Follow up actions

- Government to leverage on the results of climate risk assessments to plan climate adaptation interventions.
- Facilitate cross-learning to scale-up climate risk assessment.

### Agenda

14:00–14:05 (5 min)	<b>Opening remarks: Ms. Shanny Campbell, Country Director in Tajikistan, ADB (5 mins)</b>
14:05-14:35 (30 min)	<b>Keynote presentations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Sattor Saidov, Head, Head of Climate Change Center, Agency of Hydrometeorology, Committee of Environmental Protection: Climate commitments and strategy for implementation in Tajikistan (10 mins)</b></li> <li>• <b>Prof. Roy Sidle, Mountain Societies Research Institute, University of Central Asia: Key findings of the research on <a href="#">Food security in high mountains of Central Asia: A broader perspective</a> (10 mins) via online</b></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Matthias Leitner, Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, ADB: Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Pyanj River Basin – A new approach for project development (10 mins)</b></li> </ul>
14:35–15:35 (60 min)	<b>Panel discussion: Strategy and climate resilience approach in Tajikistan</b> <b>Moderator: Mr. Matthias Leitner, Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, ADB</b>

- **Ms. Muhiba Rabejanova, Project Manager, UNDP Tajikistan (9 mins)**
  - Q1: What is the impact of climate change on the water and energy sectors in Tajikistan, and how can these impacts be mitigated/tackled in a coordinated manner?
  - Q2: What is the role of UNDP in providing institutional support to the government for the development of various strategies, reforms and programmes addressing adaptation to climate change?
- **Mr. Daler Domullodzhonov, National Technical Coordinator, Climate Change, Land and Water of FAO Representation in Tajikistan: (9 mins)**
  - Q1: Building resilience to climate change impacts in Central Asia.
  - Q2: How does FAO promote multi-stakeholder cooperation in project implementation and ensure long-term sustainability of water and climate change related projects?
- **Mr. Manuchehr Fezakov, Programme Lead on Climate Resilience Program, Aga Khan Foundation (9 mins)**
  - Q1: How can the WEFE Nexus approach boost climate-resilience across the water, energy, agriculture, and environment sectors?
  - Q2: What best practices of multi-sectoral collaboration are there for replication?
- **Mr. Sattor Saidov, Head of Climate Change Center, Agency of Hydrometeorology, Committee of Environmental Protection (9 mins)**
  - Q1: What climate-oriented strategic documents have been implemented in the Agency for Hydrometeorology and what role does the Agency play in adapting to climate change?
  - Q2: How transboundary/regional coordination can improve adaptation to climate change impacts?
- **Mr. Esteban Boj Garcia, Head of Water Resources Management, GIZ Tajikistan (9 mins)**
  - Q1: What are the steps to identify (private) investment opportunities which focus on increasing resilience to negative climate change impacts? We will focus here on private sector investments. An explain some work we have done around working with businesses on climate proofing their operations and investments.
  - Q2: What are the needed policy support to create an enabling environment for scaling up climate-oriented investments in Tajikistan? We will focus here on public policy support needed in the next few years to enable the scaling up climate-oriented investments (water and climate policy integration, NDC, uncertainty, resilience, reviewing the role of infrastructure, working intersectorally). We intent to facilitate this work in the next years with MEWR.
- **Mr. Daler Abdurazzoqzoda, Head of the Department of Energy Policy and Water Resources, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan (9 mins)**
  - Q1: What is the impact of climate change to water and energy sector in the country and how these impacts can be mitigated/tackled by the Ministry and the GoT?/Каково влияние изменения климата на водохозяйственный и энергетический сектор страны и как это воздействие может быть смягчено/решено Министерством Энергетики и Водных Ресурсов

	<p>Республики Таджикистан?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Q2: Please elaborate on how the National Water Sector Reform Programme can contribute to Tajikistan’s long term sustainable, climate informed development until 2030 and beyond?/ Пожалуйста, уточните, каким образом Национальная программа реформирования водного хозяйства может способствовать долгосрочному устойчивому развитию Таджикистана с учетом климатических факторов до 2030 года и далее?</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mr. Davlatmurod Khoshaev, Head of the Department for WUA support, Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation (9 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Q1: Which activities were implemented, and which activities are planned for the sustainability of Water User Associations within the framework of the National Water Sector Reform Program (2016-2025)</li> <li>○ Q2: What is the current situation of the Water User Associations and their contracting relationships with other relevant stakeholders in the Republic of Tajikistan?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:35-15:50 (15 min)	<b>Questions from the audience (15 mins)</b>
15:50-15:55 (5 min)	<b>Closing remarks: Ms. Elisa Calcaterra, UNDP Tajikistan Deputy Resident Representative (5 mins)</b>
15:55-16:00 (5 min)	<b>Group Photo (5 mins)</b>
<b>Program Emcee: Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Senior Water Resources Specialist, ADB</b>	